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MATTHEWS

Mrs. Thomas Sprague (Mary Hanson) her daughter and son-in-law Mr. & Mrs. Hiram Mathews came to Alton in 1835 from Boston, Mass. They lived at 1025 George St. (65 yrs corner of 11th - - Mr. Mathews was in the Hide and Wool Business on Broadway with Nathaniel Hanson who built the home at 3d & George St's known afterwards as the Enox Sanatorium. Mrs. Lucinda Mathews lived to be 95 & was a Dean of Public Service - In Civil War Days she was President of the Christian & Sanitary Commission which did for Civil War Union Soldiers what Red Cross did for World War soldiers. For many years she was President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Y. M. C. A. and used to send her home made baked beans & Brown Bread for the Saturday nite suppers for the boys living there.

For many years she took a prominent part in work at Public Library when it was conducted by a group of public spirited Alton women and they gave oyster suppers to support it. She was President of Ladies Aid Society of 1st Presbyterian Church for 53 years. Her home, where she lived 65 years, was a delightful old place filled with beautiful furnishings, one of the show places of Alton. Hand painted door knobs & Speaking tubes in each of it's 16 rooms - basement & attic - a wonderful farm was sold & a nice home made there. She was called Lady Lavendar. She never appeared without having something on of lavendar color - even a touch of it in her bonnets - she never wore a hat - but always bonnets until her death Oct. 3 - 1928 at age of 95 - a real personage - I am her granddaughter Edith Betts Dempsey (Mrs. Wm. H. Dempsey)
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